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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Johannes Reinmüller
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For : MEDICAL IMPLANTS MADE OF MOULDINGS
Group Art Unit : 3738
Examiner : Koh

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Commissioner of Patents
and Trademark
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 18, 2001

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BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please cancel claim 49 without prejudice, and add the following new claims:

--59. Implant for the reconstruction of soft tissue, said implant comprising: a plurality of unitary sheets of a physiologically compatible material having a thickness of 10-200 μ m and a surface that is wettable by a fluid lubricant, said unitary sheets being folded upon each other to form adjacent layers forming the implant, the adjacent layers being slidable on one another.

60. Implant according to claim 59, wherein said implant has a hydrophilized surface.

61. Implant according to claim 59, wherein the surfaces of the sheets are hydrophilized and said implant contains an aqueous fluid wetting the hydrophilized surface as the lubricant.

62. Implant according to claim 59, wherein the thickness of the sheets increases when contacted with a suitable liquid.